

# NEWS FROM ED MARKEY

**UNITED STATES CONGRESS**

**MASSACHUSETTS SEVENTH DISTRICT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **LAWMAKERS URGE BUSH ADMINISTRATION TO DO MORE TO IMPROVE SUV FUEL ECONOMY**

**Washington, DC:** Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), a senior Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and House Resources Committee, along with Representative Sherwood Boehlert, Chairman of the House Science Committee, today released a letter to Dr. Jeffrey Runge, Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), urging him to promulgate higher fuel economy standards for SUVs than the 1.5 miles per gallon increase announced in December 2002. The Markey-Boehlert letter was signed by a bipartisan group of 107 other Members of Congress.

"The United States is the technological giant of the world and the public is ready for a future-oriented energy and environmental policy that can achieve energy independence without global warming," said Rep. Markey. "But a brand-new SUV being driven home from the lot gets worse fuel economy than grandma's old clunker. On the eve of a war with Iraq, the Bush Administration has proposed a fuel economy standard that doesn't even come close to what could be achieved using technologies that are commercially available today."

In December 2002, NHTSA released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to increase corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) standards for light trucks by 1.5 miles per gallon by model year 2007. The group of lawmakers wrote that:

- "A much greater increase can and should be done to take advantage of the many existing technologies in automotive design that can increase fuel economy and reduce our nation's dangerous over-dependence on imported oil."
- "That the technology exists to enable light trucks to achieve far greater fuel efficiency simply can no longer be doubted. The most recent comprehensive study of light trucks and fuel efficiency, issued in July of 2001 by the National Academy of Sciences, identified a set of 13 already-available technologies, each of which could be implemented immediately to achieve fuel economy improvements ranging from 0.5 to 12 percent."
- "According to the National Academy of Sciences report, fuel efficiency can be improved "without significantly affecting the safety of motor vehicle travel."
- "The amount of gasoline Americans burn every day is equivalent to about eighty percent of the oil we import from foreign countries. We believe that figure should be lower. Luckily the technology exists to allow it to become so. We urge you to promulgate a more significant increase in CAFE standards that reduces our dependence on foreign oil, increases our national energy security, and takes into account the advanced technologies that, at least in some cases, are already being applied."

Rep. Markey concluded, "The Bush proposal actually would accomplish less than what the 'Big Three' auto manufacturers have already said they would do voluntarily. This scheme is absolutely irresponsible and will do next to nothing to reduce our dependence on Middle Eastern oil. It is a technological embarrassment."

**The Markey-Boehlert letter, which can be viewed at [www.house.gov/markey](http://www.house.gov/markey),** was signed by: Edward J. Markey, Sherwood L. Boehlert, John Spratt, Nancy Johnson, Henry A. Waxman, Wayne T. Gilchrest, John Olver, Christopher Shays, George Miller, Doug Bereuter, Robert Menendez, James A. Leach, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Vern Ehlers, Rosa L. DeLauro, Hilda Solis, Nita Lowey, Anna Eshoo, Patrick J. Kennedy, Lloyd Doggett, Harold E. Ford Jr, Barbara Lee, Major R. Owens, Ron Kind, Susan A. Davis, Adam Schiff, Rush Holt, Thomas H. Allen, Robert Andrews, Neil Abercrombie, Jerrold Nadler, Janice Schakowsky, Peter DeFazio, Adam Smith, Nydia M. Velázquez, Sherrod Brown, Michael M. Honda, Lane Evans, Joseph M. Hoeffel, Eliot L. Engel, Jay Inslee, Jim Oberstar, Tammy Baldwin, Maxine Waters, Sam Farr, Darlene Hooley, Carolyn B. Maloney, James P. McGovern, Raúl M. Grijalva, Michael H. Michaud, John F. Tierney, Dennis Kucinich, Barney Frank, Earl Blumenauer, Louise M. Slaughter, Tom Udall, Maurice D. Hinchey, Chris Van Hollen, William D. Delahunt, Steve Israel, Diana DeGette, Tom Lantos, David Wu, James Langevin, Luis V. Gutierrez, Brian Baird, Jim McDermott, Michael R. McNulty, Vic Snyder, Michael E. Capuano, Bob Filner, Martin T. Meehan, Mike Thompson, Lynn C. Woolsey, Lois Capps, Anthony Weiner, Shelley Berkley, Grace Napolitano, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Zoe Lofgren, Gary Ackerman, Danny K. Davis, Ellen Tauscher, Brad Miller, Fortney Pete Stark, Jim Moran, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Rick Larsen, Charles B. Rangel, Ed Case, Robert Wexler, Bernard Sanders, Donald M. Payne, Bill Pascrell, Jr., Anibal Acevedo-Vilá, Jane Harman, Loretta Sanchez, Steve Rothman, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Betty McCollum, Elijah E. Cummings, Mark Udall, Jim Davis, Calvin M. Dooley, Richard Neal, Carolyn McCarthy, Mark Steven Kirk, Jim Ramstad, and Gene Taylor.

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